

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5969

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 1061

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XT, CA

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU'S EUROPEAN VISIT

REF: OTTAWA 613; PARIS 5889

1. TRUDEAU RETURNED MARCH 15 FROM EUROPEAN TOUR DESCRIBED REFTEL. THE TRIP'S TIMING WAS UNFORTUNATE. NOT ONLY WAS HIS PRESENCE IN SEVERAL EUROPEAN CAPITALS OVERSHADOWED BY EVENTS THERE -- KIDNAPPING IN BERLIN, ECONOMIC CRISIS IN ITALY, DEBATE ABOUT EC RELATIONS IN THE UK, AND EC SUMMIT IN DUBLIN -- BUT VISIT ALMOST ECLIPSED IN CANADIAN PRESS BY TROUBLES IN CABINET, STRIKES, AND SCANDAL OVER DREDGING CONTRACTS, MUCH OF WHAT REACHED THE FRONT PAGES WAS TRIVIA, SUCH AS SKIING AND THE QUALITY OF LETTUCE AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE. FROM PRESS, AND FROM EXCELLENT REPORTS FROM POSTS IN CITIES VISITED, EMBASSY
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GATHERS THAT TRUDEAU IN FACT ACCOMPLISHED PRECIOUS

LITTLE ON THIS TOUR. WE WILL SEEK FURTHER DETAILS FROM ENTOURAGE, BUT TO CANADIAN PRESS AND PUBLIC THE TRIP IS ALREADY ALMOST FORGOTTEN.

2. CANADIAN-EC RELATIONS. TRUDEAU WON VAGUE AND UNSPECIFIC COMMITMENTS TO SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE CANADA'S DESIRE FOR A "CONTRACTUAL LINK" WITH THE EC. THOUGH TRUDEAU ATTEMPTED DESCRIBE THIS AS A SUCCESS, IT WAS PRESS IMPRESSION THAT EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS SOMEWHAT BEWILDERED ABOUT WHAT "CONTRACTUAL LINK" ACTUALLY MEANT, AND WERE SIMPLY BEING POLITE IN AGREEING TO SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE. TRUDEAU HIMSELF HAS PROVED UNABLE DEFINE WHAT HE WANTS. IN PRESS CONFERENCE WITH EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENTS, HE SAID: "THE IMPORTANT THING IS THE PROCESS; IT'S NOT THE CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP, IT'S NOT THE SIGNED DOCUMENT. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THE EUROPEANS WILL BE TALKING TO US AS WELL AS TO WHOMEVER ELSE THEY WANT TO TALK TO... THAT CANADA HAVE A FOOT IN THE DOOR DISCUSSING WITH THEM OUR OWN INTERESTS DISTINCT FROM THOSE OF THE US, JAPAN AND SO ON... THE VISIT TO BRUSSELS WAS SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE IT ESTABLISHED THE PROCESS."

EMBASSY COMMENT: IF ALL TRUDEAU WANTS IS VERBAL RECOGNITION THAT CANADA IS A SEPARATE ENTITY IN NORTH AMERICA, HE HAS PROBABLY ACHIEVED IT. IF HE WANTS SOMETHING MORE, AS HE INDICATES, HE THEN HAS PROBLEMS. CANADA HAS YET TO GET EVEN SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE FOR CONTRACTUAL LINK FROM FRENCH AND DANES, ALTHOUGH LATTER MAY WELL BE AMENABLE. BUT WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF INCLINATION AMONG EC MEMBERS TO EXTEND SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP TO CANADA. FURTHER, THERE IS PROBABLY VERY LITTLE CANADA CAN OFFER IN THE WAY OF A QUID PRO QUO. CONCEIVABLY -- AND THIS IS PURE SPECULATION -- CANADA COULD AGREE TO SELL RAW MATERIALS TO EUROPEAN UNDER SOME SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT. BUT GOC STATED POLICY IS TO ENCOURAGE CANADIAN PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND GET AWAY FROM ROLE AS PURVEYOR OF "ROCKS AND LOGS." AS SUGGESTED IN PARIS 5889, PROSPECT IS THAT WHAT TRADEAU CALL H CONFIDENTIAL

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"THE PROCESS;, OR TALKS WITH EUROPEANS ABOUT CANADIAN IDENTITY, WILL PROCEED WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL RESULTS FOR SEVERAL YEARS AT LEAST. KNOWLEDGEABLE SENIOR OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE HAVE DISCUSSED GOC INTENTIONS CONTINUE TO DENY THAT GOC IS SEEKING PREFERENTIAL TRADE RELATIONSHIP. (ONE DEPUTY MINISTER COMMENTED TO ECON COUNSELOR LAST WEEK, "YOU ARE ASKING ME TO EXPLAIN THE INEXPLICABLE" IN REFERRING TO CONTRACTUAL LINK). THEY POINT OUT THAT, EVEN IF CANADA

WANTED SUCH A RELATIONSHIP, WHICH IT DOESN'T, EC IS VERY CONSCIOUS OF US ATTITUDE AND WOULD NEVER AGREE. END EMBASSY COMMTN.

3. NATO. PRESS AND EMBASSIES REPORT THAT TRUDEAU WAS URGED BY SEVERAL ALLIES TO CONTINUE CANADIAN NATO PARTICIPATION, AND LIMITED MILITARY PRESENCE IN EUROPE. GOC PROBABLY PLEASED TO AGREE. REDUCTION IN NATO PARTICIPATION IN 1971 WAS IN PART DUE TO FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS, IN PART DUE TRUDEAU'S CONCEPTION OF DETENTE AND DISINTEREST OR DISTASTE FOR MILITARISM. WHATEVER THE MOTIVATION, TRUDEAU AND GOC NOW HAVE BETTER APPRECIATION THAT NATO IS ONE OF THE FEW "CONTRACTUAL LINKS" CANADA HAS IN EUROPE, PAYING POLITICAL DIVIDENDS WELL BEYOND EXPENSE INVOLVED. OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE AND THUS DEMONSTRATE SEPARATE CANADIAN IDENTITY IN CSCE AND MBFR ARE OF SLID POLITICAL CONSEQUENCE HERE AND DERIVE FROM CANADA'S ROLE IN NATO. (TRUDEAU ALMOST CERTAIN TO ATTEND ANY EVENTUAL CSCE SUMMIT.)

4. NON-PROLIFERATION. TRUDEAU AND GOC COMMITMENT TO NON-PROLIFERATION IS PROFOUND AND SINCERE, GOING WELL BEYOND PIQUE AT INDIAN EXPLOSION. AT THE SAME TIME, CANADA IS ANXIOUS TO SELL ITS NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY WHERE SAFEGUARDS ARE CONSIDERED ADEQUATE. GOC WOULD DERIVE REAL SATISFACTION SHOULD ITALY AND OTHER EURATOM COUNTRIES RATIFY NPT BEFORE NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE. (TRUDEAU NOT LIKELY DISCLAIM CREDIT, DESERVED OR NOT, FOR HAVING PERSUADED ITALIANS).

5. EMBASSY DOES NOT INTEND IMPLY DISCREDIT TRUDEAU'S SINCERITY OR PERSONAL EFFECTIVENESS IN SEEKING CLOWER EUROPEAN TIES IN PURSUIT OF "THIRD OPTION," A PHRASE WHICH HAS BECOME FUNDAMENTAL IN CANADIAN POLITICAL JARGON AND CONFIDENTIAL

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MENTIONED IN ANY RELATIONSHIP OTHER THAN WITH U.S. HOWEVER, IT STRIKES US, AS IT HAS CANADIAN PRESS, THAT TRUDEAU ACHIEVED LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE IN HIS TWO WEEKS IN EUROPE. PORTER

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